

FACSIMILE TRANSMITTAL FORM	Application Number	10/626341
	Filing Date	July 24, 2003
	First Named Inventor	Ali, Mahfuza B.
	Art Unit	1713
	Examiner Name	Pezzuto, Helen Lee
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Date: April 14, 2005	Attorney for Applicant: Sean J. Edman	

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Patent
Case No.: 57169US003

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

First Named Inventor: ALI, MAHFUZA B.

Application No.: 10/626341 Group Art Unit: 1713

Filed: July 24, 2003 Examiner: Pezzuto, Helen Lee

Title: AMIDE-FUNCTIONAL POLYMERS, COMPOSITIONS, AND METHODS

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

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Date	<i>April 14, 2005</i>
Signed by: Judy Knutson	

Dear Sir:

This is in response to the Office Action mailed March 15, 2005. Claims 1-58 are pending. Claims 1-58 were restricted under 35 USC § 121 as follows:

- I. Claims 1-7 are said to be drawn to a polymer, classified in Class 526, subclass 303.1+;
- II. Claims 8-10 are said to be drawn to a method of preparing a reactive polymer, classified in Class 525, subclass various;
- III. Claims 11-14 are said to be drawn to another method of preparation, classified in Class 528, subclass various;
- IV. Claims 15-23, are said to be drawn to a dental composition, classified in Class 106, subclass 35+;
- V. Claims 24-33, 57, are said to be drawn to an aqueous composition, classified in Class 524, subclass 543+;
- VI. Claims 34-43, are said to be drawn to a method of treating an oral surface, classified in class 420, subclass various;
- VII. Claims 44-56, 58, are said to be drawn to a method of hardening a composition, classified in Class 430, subclass various.

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Election

In response, Applicants elect Group I with traverse.

Reconsideration and withdrawal or modification of the restriction requirement is respectfully requested.

In Group I, Applicants broadly claim a reactive polymer. Groups I-VII are directed to methods of preparing and using the polymer, and compositions containing the polymer.

Applicants submit that the Group I and Groups II-VII claims are so interrelated that a search of one group of claims will reveal art to the other. Moreover, the classification of Group I and Groups II-VII claims in different classes and subclasses is not sufficient grounds to require restriction.

Were restriction to be effected between the claims in Group I and Groups II-VII, a separate examination of the claims in Group I and Groups II-VII would require substantial duplication of work on the part of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office. Even though some additional consideration would be necessary, the scope of analysis of novelty of all the claims of Group I and Groups II-VII would have to be as rigorous as when only the claims of Group I were being considered by themselves. Clearly, this duplication of effort would not be warranted where these claims of different categories are so interrelated. Further, Applicants submit that for restriction to be effected between the claims in Group I and Groups II-VII, it would place an undue burden by requiring payment of a separate filing fee for examination of the nonelected claims, as well as the added costs associated with prosecuting seven applications and maintaining seven patents.

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Conclusion

Applicants have elected Group I. Continued prosecution of this application is respectfully requested.

It is believed that no fee is due; however, in the event a fee is required, please charge the fee to Deposit Account No. 13-3723. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the indicated telephone number with questions that can be resolved with a simple teleconference.

Respectfully submitted,

April 14, 2005

Date

By: 

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